THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal at a cost of Rs. 15.00 crore to undertake a combination of coastal protection measures such as seawall, geo-tube and bio-shield at Pentha village in Kendrapara District. The proposal is part of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project submitted by the Government of Orissa to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, seeking funds from the World Bank.

(c) Sea erosion has taken place at Puri, Pentha, Satavaya, Gopalpur and along Puri-Konark marine drive. The extent of erosion in these areas ranges from 500 m to 1500 m.

(d) In order to help the Government of Orissa, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched a pilot project on "Shoreline Management of Gopalpur coast" to develop solutions to control sea-erosion at Gopalpur.

Recurrence of Tsunami

974. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) after the occurrence of Tsunami in India during 2004, whether there are instances or indications for recurrence of the same;

(b) if so, what could be its extent and effect;

(c) the places that may be susceptible to Tsunami onslaught; and

(d) whether there are scientific devices to know this disaster well in advance?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After the December 2004 tsunami, the earthquake events were monitored for their tsunamigenic potential in the Indian Ocean since July 2005. Since then nine instances of earthquake of magnitude 7.0 and above have been observed in the Indian Ocean. Out of these, on two instances minor changes in sea level were observed on the Indian coast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. No impact was observed all along the Indian coast due to transient minor changes of sea level.

(c) The east coast and west coast of the Indian Mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are susceptible to tsunamis that may be generated/triggered by the tsunamigenic earthquakes (Magnitude 7.0 and above) in the two subduction zones, *viz.* The Andaman-Sunda-Sumatra-Java subduction zone and the Makaran subduction zone in the Indian Ocean.

(d) Yes, Sir. There are scientific devices to know the occurrence of such event and forecast of tsunami in advance, if generated. The Government has established an Early Warning System for Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. An Early Warning Centre has been set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and is operational since

15th October 2007 on 24x7 basis. Early Warning Centre receives real time Seismic. Bottom Pressure Recorder (BPR), Tide Gauge data from national as well as other International networks. The progression of the tsunami wave is monitored through the BPRs placed at sea bottom in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea which have real time connectivity with the warning system. Seismic, sea-level and BPR data are continuously monitored in the Early Warning Centre using custom built software application that generates alarms/alerts in the warning centre whenever a pre-set threshold is crossed.

ACPP recommendation to curb overcrowding in jails

975. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hong Kong based Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples (ACPP) has urged the Indian Government to curb overcrowding in jails and juvenile homes and to promote dignity of the prisoners/inmates;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to improve the condition of various jails in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith financial assistance likely to be provided to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) "Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners, the Central Government started a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 for construction of additional prisons/barracks to reduce overcrowding, repair and renovation of existing prisons, improvement in sanitation and water supply and living conditions of prisoners. The scheme is being implemented over a period of five years with a total outlay of Rs. 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has since been extended upto 31.3.2009. A statement showing funds released to various States is enclosed (*See* below).

Considering the demands of various States for granting further financial assistance for construction of new jails/additional barracks so as to address the problem of over crowding, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process of formulating second phase of the scheme of modernization of prisons. Necessary steps are being taken in this regard in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.